

Evidentiary Document # 5074.

IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER
OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED (AT KANBURI PRISONER OF
WAR CAMP, SIAM,) IN SEPTEMBER 1943 AND IN THE
MATTER OF THE MURDER OF CAPT. HATLEY AND LIEUT.
ARMITAGE.

British National Office Charge No:

United Nations War Crimes Commission Reference:

A F F I D A V I T.

I, No. 3858367 C.O.M.S. GEOFFREY HNOLES, Reconnaissance Corps, with
permanent address at 3 Ruston Road, Kerecamba, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner in Singapore on 15th February 1942. I stayed
there until June 1942 and was then moved to Siam. Later, in March 1943 I
was moved to Kanburi Prisoner of War Camp. Kanburi was the headquarters of
No. 1 Group of Prisoner of War Working Camps. The work we were doing was
on the Bangkok - Kaulnein railway line. No. 1 Group consisted of about
seven outlying camps, one of which was called Sakemoto. When I arrived at
Kanburi I was put to work in the cook-house there, and all the time I was
with No. 1 Group I stayed at Kanburi itself and did not go out to any of the
outlying camps.]

2. The Japanese and Korean personalities at Kanburi Camp were as
follows;

Lt. Comi	Commandant.
	Other members of his staff were;
Lt. Oda	
Lt. Kanematsu	This man had been educated in America and had been there 35 years; consequently he could speak absolutely fluent English.

The N.C.Os. were;

Sgt. Ejern	
Sjts. Kutanabi	There were two Kutanabis; one of them was medical and the other in administration.

The guards were Koreans. The ones involved in these particular atrocities
were called;

Kanashira	whose nick-name by us was "The Undertaker"
Yasinoto	

There were more guards involved, but I cannot remember their names.

3. In September 1943 the Japanese found a wireless set which had been made by Serjeant Major Thew and a friend of his called Sjt. Smith. This set was found on Serjeant Major Thew's bed at Sakamoto Working Camp. A few days later Thew was sent down to Kanburi and was stood outside the guard room when he arrived. I remember seeing him there.

4. At 11 p.m. the Japanese began beating Serjeant Major Thew. None of us were allowed to see what was going on except the British Commandant, Capt. Renwick of the Sherwood Foresters who was called out specially to witness it. I was on duty in the cook-house about 100 yards away and I heard the whole incident. Serjeant Major Thew was beaten for an hour and a half. The method of beating was to strike him on the small of the back and on the thighs with heavy teak poles. I could hear the thuds of the poles as they struck him. Every now and again there would be a short spell when Thew was interrogated about his wireless set. The Japanese varied the beatings by striking him on the face with wooden clogs. When it was all over Thew was left in a crumpled heap outside the guard room for four days. On the first day he was brought down to the cook-house for some tea which I gave him. At first I did not recognise the man; his whole body was marked with weals, his jaw was crooked as though broken, and his face badly marked as the result of blows with the wooden clogs. His nose appeared to be broken and his legs up to his kidneys were a mass of black bruises. He also had a very bad eye injury which was suppurating. I did not see him after that, as for the rest of the four days rice and tea were brought to him and he stayed outside the guard room out in the open. At the end of the fourth day he was taken to hospital where I saw him again. At that time he was barely conscious and I do not think he knew what he was doing or what was happening. It was discovered in hospital that as well as his other injuries he had a burst ear drum. There is no doubt that all the personalities I have mentioned took part in this beating.

5. The day after Thew was allowed into hospital five British officers were brought down from Sakamoto to Kanburi for a beating. They were;

Major Smith (S.S.V.F.)
Major Slater
Major Knights
Lt. McKay
Lt. Lomax (Royal Signals)

The day before these five British officers were beaten the whole camp was warned that there was to be a beating that night, but there was to be no demonstration whatsoever; troops would remain in their bed spaces, otherwise a massacre would take place. I noticed that there were machine guns in the guard room, presumably ready for this. At 11 o'clock that night the beating started. All five of these British officers were beaten in much the same way as Serjeant Major Thew. Major Smith was almost killed and Lt. Lomax had both his forearms broken as a result of trying to protect himself. But I did not witness these incidents owing to the camp order; I only heard the screams and the noise of the teak poles on the

victims' bodies. When that was over the five of them were left outside the guard room for one day; they were then removed to hospital. I saw them in hospital and helped to feed them as none of them were able to feed themselves. Their injuries were terrible.

6. The day after that four more British officers were brought in to Kanburi for beating. They were;

Capt. Hawley
Capt. Gregg (7th Coastal Bty. R.A.)
Lt. Armitage
Lt. Gilchrist (S-D.F.)

As it turned out, neither Capt. Gregg nor Lt. Gilchrist were beaten, but at 11 o'clock that night Capt. Hawley and Lt. Armitage were murdered. Again, I did not witness the incident, I only heard the noise of the beatings which lasted in each case for about three-quarters of an hour. In each case Dr. van der Eyden was called out, but before he got to where the beatings were going on he was motioned back by Kanematsu.

7. The next day two soldiers, Bdr. Rider and Gnr. Cavaney, who were in the workshop about twenty yards behind the Japanese guard room, found a Red Cross issue trilby hat in the swill pit. They also slept in that little hut and told me afterwards that they had heard the Japanese guards drawing shovels from an adjacent tool house. There is no doubt in my mind that Hawley and Armitage were beaten to death and buried nearby, and there is also no doubt in my mind that the Japanese personalities whom I have mentioned above were all responsible for these beatings as they must all have taken their turn at striking these British officers and Sergeant Major Thew.

8. I would describe Lt. Coni as a man of about 40, height 5 ft. 5 ins., weight about 10 stone, very thick set; round face and flat nose and looked more like a monkey than anything else. Lt. Oda was aged about 27, about 5 ft. 8 or 9 ins. tall, rather slim, weight about 9½ stone; he had monkey-like features, high cheek bones, long jaw and was more slant-eyed than the Japanese, upper teeth prominent. Kanematsu, owing to his long stay in America, had rather lost his Japanese features; he was whiter than the majority and wore square cut rimless glasses of an American fashion. He was aged about 50, height 5 ft. 9 ins., weight about 11½ stone. He had had varicose vein trouble and he had had the affected veins taken out, so that he did not have actually a limp nor exactly a normal walk; he moved slowly and rather stiffly. He was, properly speaking, a civilian interpreter attached to the Japanese Army with a lieutenant's rank, and he wore on his left breast a blue plaque upon which were five overlapping stars gradually

Evidentiary document # 5074.

4.

decreasing in size. Of the serjeants and Korean guards they were all very much the same in build, about 5 ft. 5, typically built low-class Japanese or Korean coolie types.

SWORN by the said GEOFFREY KNOWLES)
at 6 Spring gardens in the City)
of Westminster this eighth day of)
November 1945)

(Signed) G. KNOWLES.

Before me

(Signed) A.M. BELL-MACDONALD.
Capt.
Legal Staff.

Mil. Dept.
Office of J.A.G.
London.

Certified true copy:

(Signed) R.B. LAMBE, Lt.Colonel.
A.A.G.
War Crimes, HQ AFSEA.

Ex 1071A

Doc 5074

ジエフレー・ノウルズ

I モロキヤブ・「ユーストン通り」三番地ニ本
籍ヲ有スル偵察員三八五八三六七番。・Q・M・
S ジエフレー・ノウルズヘ直轄ノ上左ノ如ク陳
述ス。

II 私ハ一九四二年二月十五日「シンガポール」
デ停泊トナリマシタ。私ハ同年六月迄其處ニ留
リ、ソノ後「シヤム」ニ移サレマシタ。ソレカ
ラ一九四三年三月「カンブリ」停泊所ニ移
サレマシタ。「カンブリ」ハ停泊所ノ第一
圖ノ本部デアリマシタ。我等ノ仕事ハ「ベンコ
ックーモールメン」無線線ヲヤリマシタ。第
一圖ハ約七ヶ所ノ分所カラ成リ、其中ノ一ツハ
「サカモト」ト稱ヘラレテ居リマシタ。私ガ「
カンブリ」ヘ到着シマス、休養場デ暫ク居ト
ナリマシタ。私ガ第一圖所アル間迄終「カン
ブリ」ニ居リ何ノ分所ニモ行キマセンデシタ。

III 一九四三年九月日本兵ヘ一臺ノ無線機ヲ見付
ケマシタガ其レハシユウ曹長ト其友人スミス電
曹ガ違ツタモノデシタ。コノ無線機ハ「サカモ
ト」停泊所ノシユウ曹長ノ機體デ発見サレタノ

Doc 5074

2.

デシタ。二、三日後シユウヘ「カンブリ」ニ送
ラレテ來テ到着スルト衛兵室外ニ立タサレマシ
タ。私ハ彼ヲ其處デ見たノヲ記憶シテキマス。

四 午後十一時日本兵ハシユウ會長ヲ打チ續メマ
シタ。私達ハ誰モ其處ヲ見ル事ヲ許サレマセ
ンデシタガ、唯一人英軍ノ指揮官シヤード
・フオーレスターズ隊ノレニツク大尉ダケ立會
人トシテ待ニ時ビ出サレマシタ。私ハ百ヤード
許リ離レタ狀態ヲ見中デシタガ全部ノ事件
ノ概要ヲ聞キマシタ。シユウ會長ハ一時間半打
タレマシタ。其ノ打チ方ハ腹部ト腰ヲ重イチー
ク射ノ様デ打ツノデシタ。其ノ打ツ音がバサツ
バサツト聞ヘマシタ時々絶ヘ間ガアツタノハシ
ユウガ無線機ニ就イテ訊問サレテキル時デシタ
日本兵ハ今度ハ打チ方ヲ變ヘテ床ノ下駄デ打
ラ打チマシタ。之ガ後ツテカラシユウヘ衛兵室
外ノガラタタノ中ニ四日間放置サレマシタ。第
一日目ニ茶ヲモラフ爲ニ彼ハ炊事場ニ連れテ來
ラレ、私ガソレヲ支給シマシタ初メハ誰ダカ判
リマセンデシタ。全身傷ヲケテ頸ヘ打レタ後
ニユガミ頭ハ下駄デ打タレタ隊ガ暗クツイテキ
マシタ。鼻ハ折レタ様ニ見ヘ顔カラ腎臓ノ邊マ

Doc 5074

テ無イ打傷が澤山アリマシタ。又彼へ目ヲ怪我
シテソレガ化膿シテキマシタ。恐ハ其後ヲ見マ
センデシタが後ノ三日間ハ米飯ト茶ガ與ヘラレ、
彼ハ衛兵室外ノ露天ニ置カレマシタ。四日目ノ
夕方病院ニ送レラレ、私ハ其處デ再ビ彼ヲ見マ
シタ。其ノ時彼ハ殆ンド意識ガ無ク、自分ガ何
ヲシテキルカ、何が起ツテキルノカ解ツタトハ
思ヒマセン。彼ガ他ニ怪我ヲシテキル上ニ又酸
膿ガ出ラレテキル事ガ病院デ見サレマシタ。

シユウガ病院ニ入レラレタ次ノ日五人ノ英軍
將校ガ打タレル爲ニ「サカモト」カラ「カンブ
リ」ニ起行サレテ來マシタ。三人ノ英軍將校ガ
打タレル前ノ日旅客所ノ全員ハ其夜營打ガアル
事ニナツテキルガ併シ全然見セル事ナクヤルノ
ダト云フ事又隊員ハ癡癡ノ間ニ留ツテキル方ガ
良イ、サモナイト屋敷ガアルダラウト警告サレ
マシタ。私ハ衛兵室ニ居ラクハソレニ用意サレ
タト思ハレル機関銃ガアルノニ氣ガツキマシタ。
其ノ夜十一時ニ營打ガ始メラレマシタ。五人全
部英軍將校ハ、シユウ酋長ト同ジ様ニ打タレマ
シタ。スミス少佐ハ氣息奄々デロマクス中野ハ
自分ノ身ヲ庇ハウトシタノデ前庭ヲ折ラレマシ

3.

Doc 5074

タ。シカシ私ハ收容所ノ命令ノ對此ノ事件ヲ目
撃スル事ハ出来マセシタ。唯叫ビ聲トデ
ク材ノ箱ノ音トラ聞クダケデシタ。コレガスム
ト、五人ノ將校ハ衛兵室外ニ一日ノ間泣腫サレ
其後病院ニ移サレマシタ。私ハ病院デ其人達ヲ
見マシタガ此人達ハ自身デ食取スル事が出来ナ
イデ彼等ニ食ベサセルノヲ手憐ヒマシタ。此
人達ノ傷害ハ惨憺タルモノデシタ。

其ノ翌日更ニ四人ノ英軍將校ガ「カンブリ」
カラ營刑ノ爲ニ進行サレマシタ。營刑ガ始ツテ
見ルト、グレダ大尉モギルクリスト中尉モ打タ
レマセシタガ其夜十一時ニ、ホウリ大尉ト
アミテジ中尉トガ逃サレマシタ。私ハ矢張り
ソノ暴行ヲ目撃セズ、唯打ツ音ヲ聞キマシタガ
ソレハ各人ノ場合ニ前キ約四十五分間聞キマシ
タ。各々ノ場合ニフアンデル・アイドン博士ガ
呼ビ出サレマシタガ、彼ガ營打ガ行ハレテキル
場處ニ着カナイ前ニ、カネマツ、ガ合圖ヲシテ
解ヘシテシマヒマシタ。

翌日、日本軍衛兵室ノ後口約三十ヤードニア
ル仕事場ニキタ二人ノ兵隊、ライダ爆雷手トキ

Doc 5074

アベノイ砲手が煙辛酒ノ中カラ赤十字給與ノト
リルビイ煙ヲ見ツケマシタ。彼等ハ又其小屋ニ
獲テ居テ、其後私ニ彼等ハ日本軍ノ衛兵ガ近ク
ノ逆兵小屋カラ、シヤベルヲ取り出ス物音ヲ聞
イタト聞リマシタ。私ノ考ヘテハ、ホウリトア
ーミテジガ聞カレテ死ンテ近クニ煙メラレタノ
ハ疑ヒアリマセン。

5.